Manitoba Pork Council

HORIZONS

November 2007 Issue#20 Publications Mail Agreement 40042549

2007 Semi-Annual Meeting

Manitoba Pork Council directors and delegates gathered at the Royal Oak Inn in Brandon on November 8 for Council's semi-annual meeting. Approximately 80 people attended the half-day meeting. The crowd heard presentations from Council staff members, including an update on traceability and an introduction to Manitoba Pork Credit Corporation by recent Council addition Ron Marchenski.

Delegates and directors also heard from Jason Manness, Director of Procurement at Maple Leaf, who gave an update on the plant and its recent move to a double shift. Eric Olson of Meyers Norris Penney spoke to delegates and directors about "Income Support Programs and Farm Structure."

Chairman Karl Kynoch addresses the delegate body at Council's final semi-annual meeting.

Discussion took place on the major issues facing the industry and what more Council can do to make address issues and opportunities. Delegates also passed a motion to move district meetings to the November-December time period.

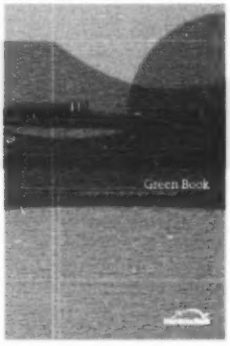
The Green Book

A Report on Manitoba's Hog Industry

Did you know that the hog industry contributes about $1 billion to the provincial economy each year? Or that Manitoba hog farmers have helped create more than 15,000 jobs for Manitobans?

The hog industry in Manitoba is a success story we can all be proud of, and Manitoba Pork Council has created a new publication to tell that story. The Green Book is a special report on the contributions that hog farming makes to the province. It highlights our successes and touches on where we plan to be in the future. Not only does the book explore the industry's economic impact, the Green Book also talks about the environmental efforts that hog farmers undertake to protect our precious resources.

You'll find a copy of the Green Book in this newsletter. We are also mailing it out to all MLAs, MPs, government officials and other key stakeholders to get our message out to the public – that the hog industry is good for Manitoba.



We'd like your feedback. If you have any comments about the Green Book, please contact Tracey Bryksa, Public Affairs and Marketing Manager, at tbryksa@manitobapork.com or (204) 237-7447 or toll free 1-888-893-7447.

ManitobaPork

28 Terracon Place
Winnipeg MB R2J 4G7

Phone: 1-204-237-7447
Toll Free: 1-888-893-7447
Fax: 1-204-237-9831
www.manitobapork.com

What's Inside

Chairman's Viewpoint 2
Innovation Award Winners 3
New Cancer Report 4
Cheer Board Fundraiser 5
Taste of Elegance Update 6

Although Manitoba Pork Council regularly includes promotional inserts and advertising with the newsletter, we do not endorse paid advertisements. We encourage you to research any companies you plan to do business with.

Chairman's Viewpoint

Prices, Trade and the Future of Manitoba's Hog Industry

By Karl Kynoch, Manitoba Pork Council

As you are all well aware, the hog industry is under a great deal of strain these days. Low prices and rising production costs are threatening the industry's survival. Hog producers in Manitoba and across the country are feeling the crunch and it is forcing many to leave their farms. We're seeing the impact of industry consolidation, low prices and soaring input costs from coast to coast.

Not only are input costs high and hog prices low, there are a number of key issues facing the industry right now that could significantly affect the way we do business. As your producer association, Manitoba Pork Council is working hard to address the issues and represent producers' interests.

One of these issues is COOL – or Country of Origin Labeling. The U.S. is poised to put through a law that would segregate pork by the country it originally came from. This could have a significant impact on us, as Manitoba ships about four million weanlings a year down south and another one million finished hogs on top of that. If U.S. processors close their doors to our product, we could have a backlog of hogs with nowhere to go.

We have been working with our counterparts in the other provinces to monitor the situation and lobby our government to represent Canadian producers' interests in this challenge. We have also met with processors and producer representatives in the U.S. to share our concerns. At the end of the day, we are confident that this situation will work out. We are hoping that the U.S. will adopt a shared label for U.S. and Canadian pork that fits the North American trading relationship that has developed. We will continue to keep you apprised of this situation.

As for the low hog prices we are facing, your board of directors has tried to look at every option to help producers. We are asking the government for a targeted CAIS payment to get money into producers' hands quickly. We also considered looking for a cash injection or an ad hoc payment to hog producers in these difficult times. But, the Board decided against pursuing these options because of the risk of a trade challenge from the U.S. Let's say farmers received $30 per pig as a special payment. That could end up costing us five times as much in repayment and then lawyer fees on top of that if the U.S. introduced a trade challenge. It's just not worth the risk to our industry.

Looking ahead, we are going down south again in January to continue our trade advocacy efforts. Over the past two years, we have had great success building relationships with our U.S. counterparts. This coming year, it will be more important than ever to be down there and have a Canadian presence at the big shows in Minnesota and Iowa. There have been numerous media reports in the U.S. that have been very negative towards Canadian hog imports. We are going to make an extra effort with the media this year to explain the numbers going south.

Our sow numbers are actually dropping. The media, and most importantly, the producers, need to know this. There has been a tremendous increase in cross-border relations on both sides of the border to finish hogs and we want to make sure we keep the lines of communication open and promote the concept of a North American partnership. That is vital to the success of our hog industry. We are very dependent on the U.S. and need to ensure we are well positioned for success in the future.

A version of this column was the Chairman's Message at the 2007 Manitoba Pork Council Semi-Annual Meeting held on November 8 in Brandon.

Staff Tour Maple Leaf Brandon

As part of an on-going effort to ensure staff are familiar with all parts of hog production, Manitoba Pork Council staff recently toured Maple Leaf's Brandon plant. (l. to r.) Miriam Manswell, Jeff Clark, Susan Riese Szoke, Tarrah Jakubowski, Marlene Mcdonald, Mike Teillet, Karen Leclerc and Ron Marchenski.

Omega-3 Pork Wins National Innovation Award for Prairie Orchard Farms

Prairie Orchard Farms
Quality Meat Products

Winnipeg-based Prairie Orchard Farms was recognized with an Innovation Award at the 2007 Canadian Agri-Food Awards of Excellence handed out earlier this month at Toronto's Royal Winter Fair.

"These awards recognize outstanding successes in the sector and I congratulate the winners for their notable achievements," said federal agriculture minister Gerry Ritz. "Farmers' contributions to the industry keep Canada strong."

In presenting the award, Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada noted that all the major meat companies were unsuccessful in getting meat to absorb Omega-3 naturally. Then Willy Hoffmann came along.

Omega-3s are vital to heart health, improves the immune system and reduces the risk of contracting some cancers. Willy Hoffmann, president of Prairie Orchard Farms, and his staff figured out an innovative way to produce Omega-3 pork for human consumption. They created a feed formula that allowed Omega-3 to be absorbed through pigs' diets. The juicy, flavourful and nutritious pork is sought after by discerning chefs and health-conscious consumers.

Prairie Orchard Farms was the first meat company to receive approval from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and the United States Department of Agriculture for their Omega-3 pork, and they are now exploring markets for Omega-3 chicken. Hoffmann has also shared his success with other small companies which are moving into new Omega-3 meat products, such as bacon and sausage.

Hoffmann has plans to export to lucrative markets such as the U.S., U.K. and China.

Other Award of Excellence Winners

The seventh annual Canadian Agri-Food Awards of Excellence, co-sponsored by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, recognized achievements in six categories: voluntarism, youth leadership, innovation, agri-food export, environmental stewardship and agricultural awareness and education.

Joining Manitoba's Prairie Orchard Farms in receiving an Award of Excellence this year were:

- Voluntarism - Dr. Vernon Burrows, Ontario
- Youth Leadership - Christopher Herrmann, Alberta
- Agri-Food Export - Equavena Hulless Oats, Semican International Inc., Quebec
- Environmental Stewardship - Des Aulnages Stream Watershed Committee, Quebec
- Agricultural Awareness and Education - BC Fruit and Vegetable Snack Program, British Columbia

Manitoba Farm & Rural Stress Line

You're not alone. Help is only a phone call away.

Stress Touches Everyone

Rural stress is a community issue. It touches everyone whose livelihood and identity is linked to the land. Common signs of stress include:

- Headaches, muscle tension, chronic fatigue or other physical problems.
- Changes in eating or sleeping habits.
- Isolating yourself.
- Difficulty relaxing.
- Anger or other mood swings.
- Alcohol or drug abuse.
- Relationship problems.
- Feelings of shame, failure, guilt or helplessness.

The Manitoba Farm & Rural Stress Line provides confidential support, counseling, and information to farm and rural families. If you are having personal problems, financial difficulties, or just need information, they are there to listen and help. The toll-free line is answered by trained counselors who have farming backgrounds and strong rural identities. All calls are confidential.

Manitoba Farm&Rural Stress Line
1-866-FOR-FARM 1-866-367-3276

The Stress Line is available weekdays 10 am until 9 pm and Saturdays from noon until 5 pm. Call the Line at 1-866-FOR-FARM (367-3276), email help@ruralstress.ca, or visit the interactive website at www.ruralstress.ca.

Meat Industry Disagrees with New Cancer Report

By now, most people will have heard the details of the recent report from the World Cancer Research Fund/American Institute for Cancer Research. The report entitled Food, Nutrition, Physical Activity and the Prevention of Cancer: a Global Perspective was released in Washington, D.C. on October 31. The 500-plus page document was the result of a five-year process involving nine independent teams of scientists, hundreds of peer reviewers and 21 international experts. It makes 10 recommendations for cancer prevention.

The first three recommendations address body fat and suggest a stronger link than ever with body fat, especially at the waist, increasing the risk for numerous cancers. The report recommends limiting the intake of "energy dense" foods – those that are high in added sugar, low in fibre and high in fat like sugary drinks, French fries, milk shakes and pastries. This is not surprising as this is a general recommendation for overall health from most reputable sources.

It also highlights the double bonus of physical activity. Being physically active for at least 30 minutes a day reduces cancer in its own right and helps maintain a healthy body weight. Currently, many Canadians do not eat a balanced diet and may be getting 22 per cent of total calories per day from foods low in nutritional value.

The next two recommendations have implications for the livestock and red meat industries. They link red meat to the development of colorectal cancer in even stronger terms than in a 1997 version of the report. The report urges eating mostly food of plant origin, limiting the intake of red meat and avoiding processed meats (bacon, ham, sausage and lunch meats). It goes as far as indicating a maximum consumption amount of 18 ounces/week of cooked red meat. Eating Well with Canada's Food Guide, revised earlier this year, recommends one to three 75g (2 ½ ounce) servings of meat per day, depending on age and gender, and recommends choosing lean meats more often. This equates to a range of 2 ½ - 7 ½ ounces per day, or 18 ½ - 52 ½ ounces per week. On average, Canadians are currently consuming 74 g/day, or just under 2 ½ ounces, so we are currently not even meeting the Food Guide's advice.

Response to the report from the red meat industry has been strong. The Canadian Pork Council, the Beef Information Centre and the Canadian Meat Council disagree with certain conclusions in the report. Cancer is a complex disease with many contributing factors such as physical activity, obesity, smoking, alcohol consumption, diet, family history and age. Other factors also play a role, such as infectious agents, radiation, industrial chemicals and medication. The important message is that no one food prevents or causes cancer.

Scientific findings regarding cancer risk continue to be inconsistent. A study by Harvard University in 2004 was the largest study ever done on red meat and colon cancer. This pooled analysis of 14 studies involved 725,000 subjects and reached the conclusion that there is no positive association between red meat consumption and colorectal cancer risk. These findings were presented at the 2004 annual meeting of the American Association of Cancer Research. Although this study was funded federally in the U.S., it was not published and was not considered in the WCRF/AICR report. Had it been considered, the recommendations may have been quite different.

Canadian red meat is lean and nutritious. All pork cuts, with the exception of ribs, are "extra lean" with 7.5% fat or less. This meets the criteria of the Heart and Stroke Foundation's Health Check™ program. Red meat is rich in nutrients, with 14 essential nutrients. It is an excellent source of protein, zinc, Vitamin B12 and selenium. Pork's high quality protein, six essential B-vitamins and four important minerals (phosphorus, magnesium, zinc and iron) make it a wise choice for a healthy diet. Manitoba pork producers can be proud of the nutritious and wholesome meat that they produce. Enjoyed not only in Manitoba and Canada, Manitoba pork is well known for its excellent quality and nutrient profile. Manitobans, Canadians and consumers worldwide can be confident that our pork is a healthy choice.

World Cancer Research Fund/American Institute for Cancer Research Recommendations:

Top three recommendations:

1. Body Fatness; *Be as lean as possible within the normal range of body weight*
2. Physical Activity; *Be physically active as part of everyday life*
3. Foods and Drinks That Promote Weight Gain; *Limit consumption of energy-dense foods. Avoid sugary drinks*

The following recommendations are not in any order of priority:

- Plant Foods; *Eat mostly foods of plant origin*
- Animal Foods; *Limit intake of red meat and avoid processed meat*
- Preservation, Processing, Preparation; *Limit consumption of salt. Avoid mouldy cereals (grains) or pulses (legumes)*
- Dietary Supplements; *Aim to meet nutritional needs through diet alone*

Two special recommendations targeted at specific groups:

- Breastfeeding; *Mothers to breastfeed; children to be breastfed*
- Cancer Survivors; *Follow the recommendations for cancer prevention*

Manitoba Pork Sponsors Christmas Cheer Board Fundraiser

As the holiday season approaches and we begin our Christmas preparations, we are asked to remember those less fortunate.

On October 20, more than 200 Manitobans gathered at the Fort Garry Hotel for DeLuca's Fine Wines 3rd Annual Wine & Food Extravaganza. The successful event raised approximately $10,000 to the Christmas Cheer Board through the Pennies from Heaven campaign.

Manitoba Pork Council's product sponsorship was transformed into a wonderful grilled pork tenderloin with Dijon mustard demi glaze. Also served during the evening were seafood appetizers, sushi, Italian and Bothwell cheeses, pizza, DeLuca's pasta and lamb and more than 60 international wines at 11 wine stations.

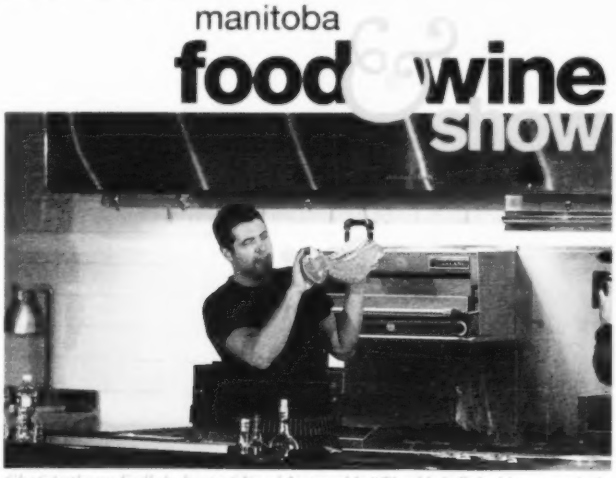
Anyone wishing to make a contribution of their own to the Christmas Cheer Board can mail it to: Box 68, Station F, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R2L 2A5. Contributions can also be made through The Winnipeg Free Press **The Spirit of Christmas Fund** at 1355 Mountain Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R2X 3B6; The Winnipeg Sun **The Empty Stocking Fund** at 1700 Church Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R2X 3A2; or at any Winnipeg branch of TD Canada Trust, Royal Bank, Bank of Montreal, CIBC, or Astra Credit Union.

Manitoba Pork – Only the Best!

More than 300 people crowded into the MTS Centre on Sunday, October 14 for the 2007 Manitoba Food and Wine Show. The restaurant owners, chefs, industry professionals and "foodies" discovered Manitoba's best food, wine and beer.

Visitors were particularly excited to see Canada's hottest new celebrity chef, whose appearance was sponsored by Manitoba Pork Council. Chef Anthony Sedlak, winner of Food Network's Superstar Chef Challenge, prepared "Slow Roasted Pork Chops with Braised Lentils and Warm Apple Compote" for the appreciative audience.

Sedlak is not only the winner of Food Network's challenge, he also won second place honours at the Hans Bueschken World Junior Chef Challenge in New Zealand and stars in his own show "The Main" on Food Network.



Chef Anthony Sedlak, host of Food Network's "The Main", holds up a whole pork loin during the Manitoba Food & Wine Show at the MTS Centre.

Upcoming Events

2007

December 5 & 6: ***Manitoba Hog Days***
Keystone Centre, Brandon, Manitoba
Tel: (204) 237-7447 www.hogandpoultrydays.com

2008

January 15-18, 2008: ***"Introduction to Commodity Risk Management Using Futures & Options"***
George Morris Centre, Guelph, Ontario
Tel: (519) 822-3929 www.georgemorris.org

January 15-18: ***Banff Pork Seminar***
The Banff Centre, Banff, Alberta
Tel: (780) 492-3651 www.banffpork.ca

January 30 & 31: ***Manitoba Swine Seminar***
Victoria Inn, Winnipeg, Manitoba

April 8 & 9: ***Manitoba Pork Council Annual General Meeting***
The Fairmont, Winnipeg, Manitoba
Tel: 1-888-893-7447 www.manitobapork.com

Manitoba Pork

TASTE of ELEGANCE

Showcasing Manitoba Pork

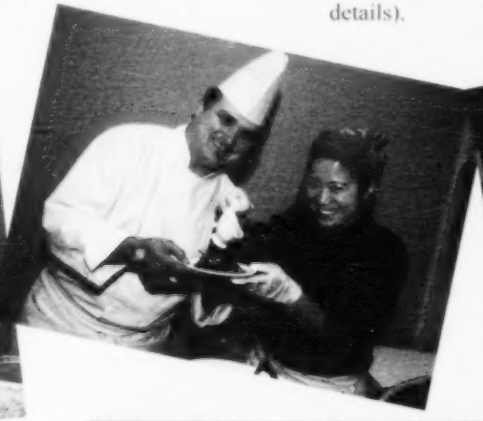
Approximately 100 community leaders representing government, business, industry, media and the food service sector joined directors and staff of Manitoba Pork Council in showcasing the province's pork industry at the first annual Taste of Elegance on October 23 at the Delta Winnipeg. The consensus of all who attended was that it was a tremendous success!

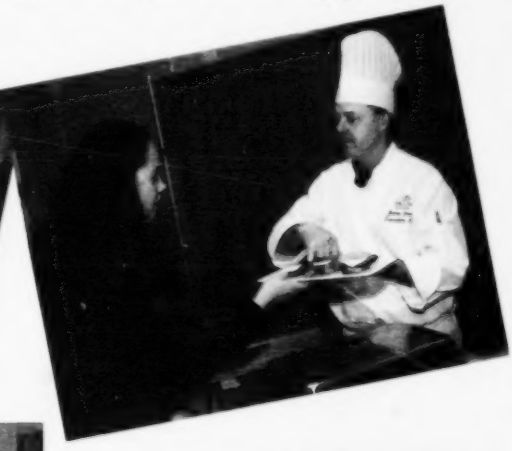
During the event, guests enjoyed several special pork dishes prepared by Chef Jason Gower and the staff of the Delta Winnipeg, Chef Craig Guenther of The Market 520, and Chef David Wong of Edmonton's Fairmont Hotel Macdonald (and Canada's 2009 candidate at the international Bocuse D'Or competition to be held in Lyon, France).

Bill Vaags (Director, District 7) chats with Brandon West MLA Rick Borotsik and Norma Borotsik during the Taste of Elegance at the Delta Winnipeg.

During the evening, Council conducted silent and rainbow auctions in support of Winnipeg Harvest and the Manitoba Association of Food Banks. More than $1500 was raised to help feed the hungry in our communities.

Council also launched Pork Marketing Canada in Manitoba and introduced its "Green Book" (see the article on page 1 for more details).





SAFE FARMS

SAFE SPOT THE HAZARD ASSESS THE RISK FIND A SAFER WAY EVERYDAY

Winter Storm Emergencies

Are you prepared for a power interruption during a winter storm?

- Make a list that includes sleeping bags, blankets, a first aid kit, candles, matches, a flashlight, batteries and a radio.
- Keep these things together where they can easily be retrieved.
- Stock up on food that can be opened with a manual can opener, bottled water and fruit juice.
- Unplug all appliances to avoid damage from a surge when power is restored.

2008-05039/

Manitoba Pork Council

CLASSIFIED

November 2007

Although Manitoba Pork Council regularly includes promotional inserts and advertising with the newsletter, we do not endorse paid advertisements. We encourage you to research any companies you plan to do business with.

FOR SALE

**Stanfield heat mats, Osborne Sow or Finisher feeders, & PVC penning. Special discounts for Producers mentioning this ad. Call Bill from Bosman Agri at (204) 296-6582.

***Model D Mixmill, 10 hp, 5 ingredient hoppers, extra 10 hp motor, Call (204) 776-5558.

***Sokal 5th wheel hog trailer, 6x24', $3,200. Call (204) 355-4829.

***Feed truck & trailer; 1991 Walinga trailer blower unload; 1995 triply axle air ride aluminum rims, 9 compt; 1999 mack day cab truck, 400 hp, 10 spd transmission, 660,000 km $55,000 obo. Call (204) 252-2053.

***Husky 4000 gallon manure wagon michelin metric, original owner, $18,000 w/wo aerway;Two 15' Aerways $6000 ea. Call Leroy (306) 595-4662 or Leon (204) 539-2529.

***50' 1 1/2" Oreflex hose $75; 75' 1 1.2" Orelflex hose w/nozzle $125; 1107 Sensaphone $375; Scale head 400 lb $175. Like new. Call (204) 362-4518.

***Barn fan hoods. Call (204) 355-4834.

***Hog Hearth heat mats, top cord, 120 V, Ten 2'x4' $125 ea, four 1'x4' $90 ea. 2 controllers $175 ea. Call (204) 324-6527.

***10"x50' 540 pto Farmking hydraulic drive gain auger; Rigid 500 threader , forward & reverse reamer up to 2 3/4:, 110 V, portable on stand w/wheels; Woolridge 14 yd farm scraper, converted to hydraulic, VGC; 1984 suburban sierra classic, 1500 series, 6.2 diesel; 1985 Chevy 3/4 ton w/fibreglass toolbox. Call Claude after 6 pm (204) 882-2446.

PROPERTY

*1000 sq', short/long term indoor warehouse space for sublease in Morris, MB. Available Jan 1, 2008. We specialize in hog industry commodities. Call (204) 296 6582.

***Newer 1300 head feeder barn in New Bothwell area to rent, can use for isoweans and/or weanlings. Call (204) 377-4252.

EMPLOYMENT

***FT Farrowing barn personnel wanted. Experience an asset. Benefits available. Fax resume to Rick Vaags at 853-7383.

***FT farm help. $12/hr with benefits. Applicants must be honest, responsible, willing to learn and like to work with livestock. Send resume to:Claude Lachance, Iceman Genetics Inc., Box 181, Elie, Mb, R0H 0H0, 204-353-2471 (fax same).

***Swine tech required for farrow-finish barn near Argyle. Applicants should have 2 yrs experience. $13/hr. Fax resume in confidence to Cal Penner (204) 383-5751.

WANTED

**Good used Biotech shelters, feeders, etc. Call (204) 966-3334.

**Good used tenderfoot flooring non self-supporting. Approximately 2800 sq'. Call (204) 388-6812, please leave message.

***Used manure pit pump (trailer type) approx. 6" or 8" would consider one in need of repairs call (204) 365-7254.

T·A·C
TONE AG CONSULTING

RON TONE, P. Ag, CCA

Box 333
St. Pierre, MB
(204) 433-7189

www.toneag.com
rontone@toneag.com

TONE AG CONSULTING LTD.
MANURE MANAGEMENT PLANS

- Soil Sampling & Soil Surveys
- Filing with MB Conservation
- Detailed Report Including Historical Data
- Phase 1 Environmental Assessment
- Monitoring Well Sampling

Livestock Available

BRED GILTS

- Available to order
- 60 days pregnant
- Guaranteed to farrow
- JSR (UK) foundation stock
- Negative for PRRS/Myco

Contact: **Fred Bieber**
Phone: (204) 389-5985
Fax: (204) 389-5086
Email: fbieber@mts.net

Place your ads with Karen at Manitoba Pork Council before the 5th of each month (this will not guarantee your ad will be placed for that month. It depends on space, content, etc.).

Send your ad by fax to (204) 237-9831, email it to kleclerc@manitobapork.com or call us toll free at 1-888-893-7447.

Line ads on this page are currently free (keep it to 5 lines). Business card size is $50/mth+gst and 1/4 page ads are $75/mth+gst (ads must be approved by MPC).

SWINE TO SOYMEAL

Convert your Culled Sows and Butcher Hogs to Soymeal

Effective immediately Manitoba Pork Marketing Co-op is offering a $3.00 credit for each Sow marketed through the Co-op towards the purchase of Soymeal from our Feed Grains Department.

New Market Hog and Existing Contract Holders are also eligible for Soymeal credits based on hog volumes marketed throughout the year.

For details please contact Bill Alford (204-235-2232) or Andy Cardy (204-781-1435) or Sheldon Gardiner (204-235-2213).

Manitoba PORK MARKETING

Promotion runs through to December 31st, 2007.

COMPETITIVE FEED COSTS

CORN -- truckload lots delivered to your farm year round

DISTILLERS DRIED GRAINS WITH SOLUBLE (DDGS)

Some of the benefits for including DDGS in swine rations are:
1. High corn protein concentrate (28-30%) and lowest cost on protein basis.
2. Possible replacement for higher priced soybean meal, typically ½ the price.
3. Yeast fermentation product that provide B vitamins, promotes palatability.
4. Over 80% phosphorus availability: can reduce cost of dicalcium phosphate.
5. Studies indicate benefits in reduction of ileitis intestinal lesions.

Delivered price quotes on other Feed Ingredients available.

"Feed Ingredients from a Name that delivers Quality, Reliability and Value"

For more info contact: Jan or Heather
204-822-6275
Morden, MB

SHAFER COMMODITIES INC.

NEW!

EnMax Feed Innovation!

Introduces Net Energy Feed Formulation.

What is Net Energy?

Gross Energy = total energy in an ingredient
→ Energy lost in feces
Digestible Energy
→ Energy lost in urine
Metabolizable Energy
→ Energy lost in digesting nutrients
Net Energy

Benefits of using EnMax:

- Lower Cost
- Improved feed intake
- Improved milk production
- Environmentally friendly
- Improved lean gain

Don't waste energy in digesting feed. Use Creative Feeds "New" EnMax feed Program.

Call Today 1-877-744-6455

Creative Feeds
Inspirational Products, Impressive Results

Manitoba Farm&Rural Stress Line
1-866-FOR-FARM 1-866-367-3276

When you need someone to talk to… we're here. We offer support, counseling and information for farm & rural people. Toll-free. Confidential.

1-866-367-3276

ON-FARM & GRAIN & FEEDMILL SYSTEMS SERVICE

Distributors for:
New & Used Equipment

Weigh-Tronix	Hammermills
Mix-Mill	Rollermills
Sweet	Feed & Grain
Chore-Time	Blower Systems
Cablevey	Augers
Conveyer	Bucket Elevators
Grain Bins	Hopper Tanks

SUPERIOR AGRI-SYSTEMS

DESIGN - SALES - SERVICE - INSTALLATION

1-846 Marion St, Wpg, MB, R2J 0K4
Ph: 233-8248 Fax: 231-0986

EMPLOYERS needed for Agriculturist graduates and practitioners!

If you encounter

- continuous change of workers
- not finding good and reliable workers
- does not take pride in their work
- causing you money to do continuous hiring

Let us HELP you!

The cost of staff turnover cost you $$$ and we help you Save by matching you hardworking Filipino workers that enables you to become competitive in your industry.

- ☑ Graduate of Horticulture, Forestry and other Agricultural Courses
- ☑ Experience in animal husbandry, and other farm skills
- ☑ Speak very good ENGLISH

Why settle for less when you can hire Quality workers!

Call now for FREE consultation:

403-6676868 or go.maryann@gmail.com
Super Select Canada Services Ltd.

Stress?

We're just a phone call away.

When you need someone to talk to... we're here. We offer support, counseling and information for farm & rural people. Confidential.

Manitoba Farm & Rural Stress Line

1-866-367-3276

(FOR FARM)

www.ruralstress.ca

Quick
Simple
Accurate

Manure Nitrogen Tester
Agros Nova Meter Mk3
www.agros.se

Wide Horizons inc
Canadian Distributer for Agros

Marilyn Heinrichs (204) 371-5594
or Bruce Reimer (204) 371-9038
Steinbach, Manitoba (204) 346-0367 fax
jhein@mts.net

MANURE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

Wide Horizons inc
Drag Hose Manure Injection
Dealer for Hydro Engineering

Marilyn Heinrichs (204) 371-5594
or Bruce Reimer (204) 371-9038
Steinbach, Manitoba (204) 346-0367 fax
jhein@mts.net www.hydro-eng.com

matrix
ENVIRONMENTAL SOLUTIONS LTD.

Providing Excellence in Animal Nutrition

SUREFIRE
TOP DRESS FIBRE SUPPLEMENT FOR SOWS

We're here to help you:

Save more pigs!!!

Produce more pigs!!!

Increase PROFITABILITY!!!

1-877-231-8333

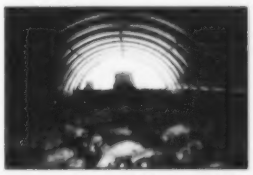
4-846 Marion st.

WPG, MB.

Varken Milk

Diamond Shelters

- Welded Truss Models from 28' to 160' wide
- Single Hoop Models from 15' to 36' wide
- 12 oz. covers are standard
- Fire rated covers optional
- Overhead Trak Door systems
- Double Slide Door systems



Diamond Hog Equipment
Farrowing Crates
Gestation Stalls
Penning-Breeder
Weanling, Grower

Dueck's Mechanical Inc.
Box 310, 88 Elevator Rd., Whitemouth, MB, R0E 2G0
Tel. 204.348.2144 Toll Free 1.888.240.5066
Email info@diamondshelters.net

ANIMAL CARE IS EVERYONE'S BUSINESS

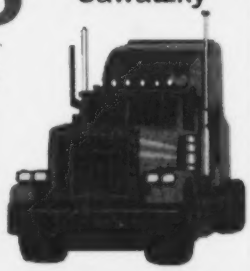
If you know of, or suspect, that any farm animal or group of farm animals is not being properly cared for, please call our confidential Animal Care voice-mail hotline at Veterinary Services Branch, Manitoba Agriculture & Food.

1-204-945-8000

Manitoba Farm
MFAC
Animal Council
Manitoba Agriculture and Food

PETE'S
GENERAL FREIGHT
LIVESTOCK

Pete Sawatzky



Box 159
Roland, MB R0G 1T0
T: (204) 343-2152
C: (204) 362-4161
F: (204) 343-2153
E: red10@mts.net

PREMIUM QUALITY CONCRETE HOG SLATS

- Quality hog slats for new construction or replacements.
- Custom lengths and designs available.
- 5" beams make our product a solid choice.
- Consistent quality at reasonable prices.
- Don't settle for less!

DURA-CON
INDUSTRIES LTD.

Box 126, Rosenort, MB R0G 1W0
Ph. 204.746.8822 or 1.866.584.8822

Manitoba Pork Council
RESEARCH
November 2007

Responses to Delayed Estrus after Weaning in Sows Using Oral Progestagen Treatment

By J Patterson[1], A Wellen[1], M Hahn[1], A Pasternak[1], J Lowe[2], S DeHaas[2], D Kraus[2], N Williams[3], & G Foxcroft[1]

[1]Swine Reproduction-Development Program, Dept. AFNS, University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB, T6G 2P5; [2]The Maschhoffs, Inc.; [3]PIC, Inc.

TAKE HOME MESSAGE

Feeding progestagen was effective in delaying and synchronizing the return to estrus in weaned sows, and the duration of the treatment affected subsequent sow productivity. Sows treated with progestagen for 12 days after weaning produced: 1)The highest percentage of sows bred within 10 days of progestagen withdrawal and pregnant at day 50 of gestation, and 2) An increase in the number of fetuses at day 50 of gestation similar to that seen in previous 'skip-a-heat' studies. These results suggest that a longer progestagen treatment period than the five days typically used in batch-farrowing systems, would be likely to produce the same benefits to sow productivity as seen in response to 'skip-a-heat' breeding.

INTRODUCTION

Altrenogest is an orally active progesterone-like compound that can be used to effectively synchronize estrus in cyclic gilts. In sows, progestagen treatment can aid in maximizing farrowing crate utilization by reducing the variation in services per week, increasing the number of pigs weaned per week, reducing variation in weekly weaned pig output and increasing overall breeding herd productivity (Intervet Inc., Millsboro, Delaware).

As reviewed by Kemp and Soede (Modern Pig Breeding – Profitable Reproduction Management. Janssen Animal Health 2005), a negative energy balance in primiparous sows at weaning is often associated with extended weaning-to-estrus intervals and the syndrome known as the 'second parity dip' in sow fertility. Feeding progestagen to weaned sows essentially extends the weaning-to-service interval and allows the sows additional time to recover after weaning. This has been shown to improve the percentage of sows in estrus within 7 days of withdrawal, increase ovulation rate and/or embryo survival, and litter size (Kemp et al., 2006. University of Alberta/University of Minnesota Leman Pre-Conference Reproduction Workshop).

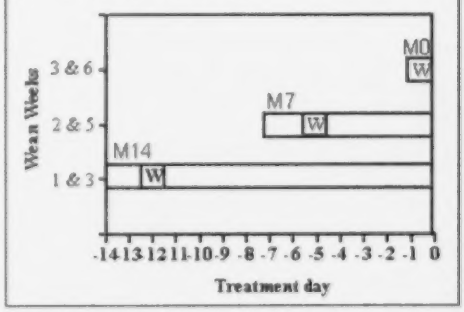
The duration of progestagen treatment after weaning needed to produce optimal sow productivity is still unclear. Periods of 3 to 5 days after weaning are traditionally used in batch-farrowing systems (Martinat-Botté et al. 1995. Journees de la recherche porcine en France 27:51-56). However, changing physiology of the weaned sow (Kemp et al., 2006) suggests that longer periods of progestagen treatment may produce results more analogous to the response to 'skip-a-heat' breeding.

EXPERIMENTAL DESIGN

Groups of multiparous sows (n = 749) weaned in two consecutive three-week periods in June and July were organized into two breeding weeks using the following strategies (Figure 1):

1. **M0** (n = 250): Wean weeks 3 and 6; no progestagen treatment.
2. **M7** (n = 250): Wean weeks 2 and 4; progestagen treatment for two days before and five days after weaning.
3. **M14** (n = 249): Wean weeks 1 and 3; progestagen for two days before and 12 days after weaning.

Figure 1. Treatment periods for each group where 'W' indicates day of weaning. Day 0 indicates the day of weaning for group M0, or withdrawal of progestagen treatment (groups M7 and M14).



Sows were also equally allocated to treatment with respect to parity (P) grouping (P2-3; P4-6; P7+).

Continued on reverse

An important news extra from
Swine Research & Technology Centre
ManitobaPork

28 Terracon Place
Winnipeg MB R2J 4G7
Phone: 1-204-237-7447
Toll Free: 1-888-893-7447
Fax: 1-204-237-9831
www.manitobapork.com

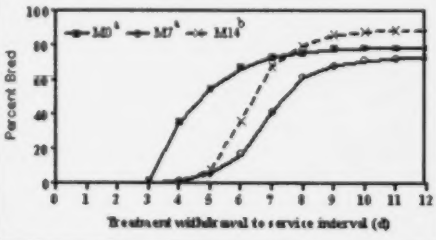
Progestagen was administered directly into the sow's mouth at a dosage of 6.8 ml (15 mg progestagen) daily. Sows were bred using artificial insemination at first detection of estrus after weaning (M0) or progestagen withdrawal, and every 24 hours thereafter, until they no longer exhibited the standing reflex.

As a result of this breeding strategy, all sows were transported to a cooperating commercial abattoir (Odom's Tennessee Pride, Little Rock, AR) over a 4 day period at either day 30 or day 50 of gestation. Reproductive tracts were recovered, and ovulation rate and number of viable conceptuses were recorded for each sow.

RESULTS

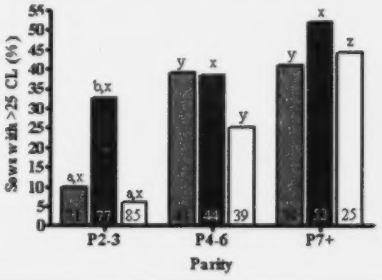
For M0 sows bred within 10 days after weaning, weaning-to-estrus interval was 5.1 ± 0.1d. For sows bred within ten days after progestagen withdrawal, estrus was recorded sooner after withdrawing treatment in M14 than in M7 sows (6.9 ± 0.1 vs. 7.4 ± 0.1 d, respectively). More M14 sows (88.6 ± 2.5 %) were bred within ten days of progestagen withdrawal than M7 (71.0 ± 3.2 %), or within ten days of weaning in M0 (77.1± 3.1 %) (Figure 2). However, for sows bred, M14 sows accumulated more non-productive days (NPD) to breeding (18.9 ± 0.1 d) than either M7 (12.4 ± 0.1 d) or M0 (5.1 ± 0.1 d) sows.

Figure 2. *Overall distribution of sows in heat by day. a, b Different superscripts indicate significant differences in the final percentage of sows bred by day ten between treatment groups.*



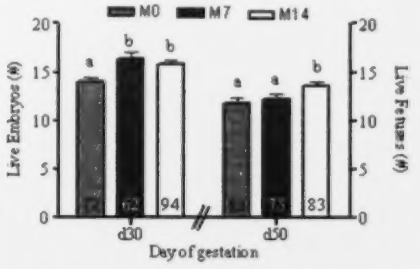
Ovulation Rate (Figure 3): For M0 sows only, the proportion of sows with greater than 25 ovulations increased from 10% in P2-3 to around 40% in P4-6 and P7+. Within P2-3, a larger proportion of M7 sows had ovulation rates 25 or greater than either M0 or M14 sows. There were no significant effects of treatment on the proportion of sows with ovulation rates 25 or greater within the other two parity groups. Furthermore in M14 sows, the proportion of high ovulation rates in P4-6 was intermediate to the proportion in P2-3 and P7+, suggesting that longer periods of progestagen treatment changed the pattern of follicular development and suppressed the 'superovulation' effect that was seen when progestagen treatment was withdrawn after 7 days in P2-3 sows.

Figure 3. *Percentage of sows with ovulation rates 25 or higher within parity group. a, b, c Different superscripts indicate significant differences between treatment groups within parity. x, y, z Different superscripts indicate significant differences between parity within treatment. Numbers within bars are number of sows represented.*



Live Embryos: At day 30 of gestation, M7 and M14 sows had a greater number of viable embryos than M0 sows (Figure 4). However, by day 50 of gestation, M14 sows had more surviving fetuses than either M0 or M7 sows. These results support previous suggestions (Foxcroft, Advances in Pork Production, 2007. Volume 18, pg.1) that high ovulation rates in hyperprolific sows may actually result in a lower number of viable embryos by day 50 of gestation.

Figure 4. *Effect of progestagen treatment (M7 and M14) on total number of live embryos and fetuses at a) day 30 and b) day 50 of gestation. a,bDifferent superscripts indicate differences between treatment groups within day. Numbers within bars are the number of sows represented.*



IMPLICATIONS

- Progestagen treatment was effective in synchronizing the return to estrus in sows after weaning.
- Sows treated with progestagen for 12 days after weaning produced the highest percentage of sows bred within 10 days of progestagen withdrawal or weaning (M0).
- Use of oral progestagen to delay the return to post-weaning estrus for greater than 12 days appears to have potential for improving weaned sow productivity, by changing the dynamics of embryonic and fetal survival.
- The concept that longer periods of ovulation suppression after weaning will improve sow productivity, analogous to the effects of "skip-a-heat" breeding, is supported by these data.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We appreciate the hard work & cooperation of production staff at Maschhoffs (Hinton, Oklahoma) and staff at Odom's Tennessee Pride (Little Rock, Arkansas). This research was funded in part by a grant-in-aid of research from Manitoba Pork Council.

CONTACT INFORMATION
G.R. Foxcroft PhD, Professor, Swine Reproduction-Development Program, Dept. AFNS, University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB, T6G 2P5, Email: george.foxcroft@ualberta.ca Website: http://www.afns.ualberta.ca/HostedSRTC/

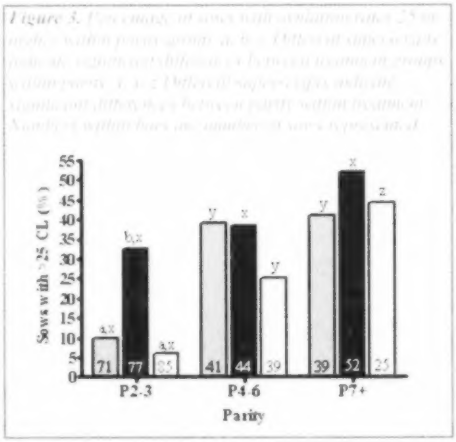
Progestagen was administered directly into the sow's mouth at a dosage of 6.8 ml (15 mg progestagen) daily. Sows were bred using artificial insemination at first detection of estrus after weaning (M0) or progestagen withdrawal, and every 24 hours thereafter, until they no longer exhibited the standing reflex.

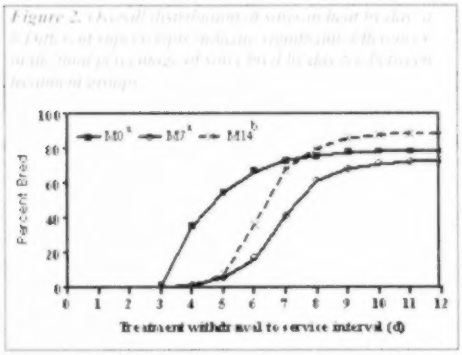
As a result of this breeding strategy, all sows were transported to a cooperating commercial abattoir (Odom's Tennessee Pride, Little Rock, AR) over a 4 day period at either day 30 or day 50 of gestation. Reproductive tracts were recovered, and ovulation rate and number of viable conceptuses were recorded for each sow.

RESULTS

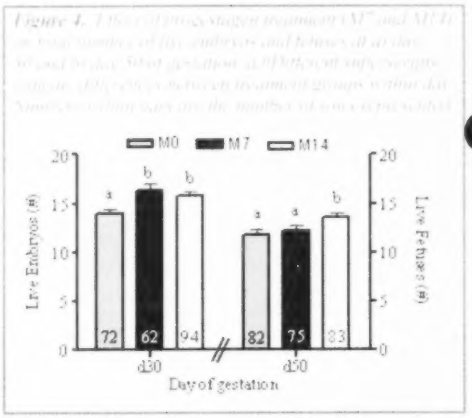
For M0 sows bred within 10 days after weaning, weaning-to-estrus interval was 5.1 ± 0.1d. For sows bred within ten days after progestagen withdrawal, estrus was recorded sooner after withdrawing treatment in M14 than in M7 sows (6.9 ± 0.1 vs. 7.4 ± 0.1 d, respectively). More M14 sows (88.6 ± 2.5 %) were bred within ten days of progestagen withdrawal than M7 (71.0 ± 3.2 %), or within ten days of weaning in M0 (77.1± 3.1 %) (Figure 2). However, for sows bred, M14 sows accumulated more non-productive days (NPD) to breeding (18.9 ± 0.1 d) than either M7 (12.4 ± 0.1 d) or M0 (5.1 ± 0.1 d) sows.

Ovulation Rate (Figure 3): For M0 sows only, the proportion of sows with greater than 25 ovulations increased from 10% in P2-3 to around 40% in P4-6 and P7+. Within P2-3, a larger proportion of M7 sows had ovulation rates 25 or greater than either M0 or M14 sows. There were no significant effects of treatment on the proportion of sows with ovulation rates 25 or greater within the other two parity groups. Furthermore in M14 sows, the proportion of high ovulation rates in P4-6 was intermediate to the proportion in P2-3 and P7+, suggesting that longer periods of progestagen treatment changed the pattern of follicular development and suppressed the 'superovulation' effect that was seen when progestagen treatment was withdrawn after 7 days in P2-3 sows.





Live Embryos: At day 30 of gestation, M7 and M14 sows had a greater number of viable embryos than M0 sows (Figure 4). However, by day 50 of gestation, M14 sows had more surviving fetuses than either M0 or M7 sows. These results support previous suggestions (Foxcroft, Advances in Pork Production, 2007. Volume 18, pg.1) that high ovulation rates in hyperprolific sows may actually result in a lower number of viable embryos by day 50 of gestation.



IMPLICATIONS

- Progestagen treatment was effective in synchronizing the return to estrus in sows after weaning.
- Sows treated with progestagen for 12 days after weaning produced the highest percentage of sows bred within 10 days of progestagen withdrawal or weaning (M0).
- Use of oral progestagen to delay the return to post-weaning estrus for greater than 12 days appears to have potential for improving weaned sow productivity, by changing the dynamics of embryonic and fetal survival.
- The concept that longer periods of ovulation suppression after weaning will improve sow productivity, analogous to the effects of "skip-a-heat" breeding, is supported by these data.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We appreciate the hard work & cooperation of production staff at Maschhoffs (Hinton, Oklahoma) and staff at Odom's Tennessee Pride (Little Rock, Arkansas). This research was funded in part by a grant-in-aid of research from Manitoba Pork Council.